

M

JAN 17 1994

.8089+
CMN

VOLUME 28 NUMBER 1 PAGES 1 - 28 JANUARY - MARCH 1994

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE



*A Publication Concerned With
Natural History and Conservation*

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE
MUSÉE CANADIEN DE LA NATURE
LIBRARY - BIBLIOTHÈQUE

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

Editor

Fenja Brodo

Production Manager

Sandra Gushue

Mailing Team

Michael Murphy
Co-ordinator
Jennifer Chaundy
Don Davidson
Gwen Jenkins
Roy Jenkins
David Smythe
Verna Smythe

Associate Editor

Bill Gummer

Production Assistants

Suzanne Blain
David Thomson

Views expressed in **Trail & Landscape** and in its news supplement
The Green Line are not necessarily those of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club.

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

President

E. Franklin Pope

Objectives of the Club: To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse the information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

Club Publications: THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, a quarterly devoted to reporting research in all fields of natural history relevant to Canada, and TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a quarterly providing articles on the natural history of the Ottawa Valley and on club activities.

Field Trips, Lectures and other natural history activities are arranged for local members; see "Coming Events" in this issue.

Membership Fees: Individual (yearly) \$23 Sustaining (yearly) \$50
Family (yearly) \$25 Life (one payment) \$500
Subscriptions to *Trail & Landscape*: (libraries and institutions): \$23
per year (volume)

Single copies of recent issues: \$6.00 each postpaid

Index to Volumes 1 - 20: \$8.00 + \$2.00 postage and handling

Membership application, correspondence :

THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB
Box 35069, Westgate P.O.
Ottawa, Ontario K1Z 1A2

Information:

(613) 722-3050
After 10 a.m.

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

Published by
The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club
Box 35069, Westgate P.O., Ottawa, Ontario, K1Z 1A2

Volume 28 Number 1
January - March 1994

Table of Contents

Welcome, New Members	2
From the Editor	3
Snow Birds <i>Robert Nero</i>	3
Council Report <i>Dave Smythe</i>	4
Urgently Needed	5
Fletcher Wildlife Garden <i>Jennifer Chaundy</i>	6
In Memory of Bill Holland	6
A Trans-Atlantic Look at the Ottawa Birds and Birders <i>Kauri Mikkola</i> . . .	7
A Good Reason to be Nocturnal <i>Jack Holiday</i>	12
The Bladdernut Shrub (<i>Staphylea trifolia</i> L.) on the North Castor River <i>Stephen J. Darbyshire</i>	14
The Bill Mason Outdoor Education Centre <i>Annette Murray</i>	17
Learning to See <i>Linda Jeays</i>	18
The End of the Rainbow? <i>Bruce Winterbon</i>	19
Intruder in the Bush <i>David Fraser</i>	20
For Club Photographers ...A Challenge <i>Betty Campbell</i>	21
Club Publications and Other Items for Sale <i>Bill Gummer</i>	22
Coming Events	23

Welcome, New Members

Ottawa Area

Daphne Barrett and Family
D.J. Bertrand and D.S. Macdonald
Judy A. Billingsley
Michele Brill-Edwards and Family
Humberto Castaneda and Family
Piette and Yvette Debain
Patricia Dunits
E. Joanne Gibson
Corinne Gula
Iris J. Hansen and Family
Beryl I. Simmons
Marilynn Wagg and Family
Liza Zaslavsky



P.J. Mickey Narraway
Membership Committee
November, 1993

Any Articles for Trail & Landscape?

Have you been on an interesting field trip or made some unusual observations recently? Is there a colony of rare plants or a nesting site that needs protection? Write up your thoughts and send them to *Trail & Landscape*. If you have access to an IBM or IBM-compatible computer using 5.25 or 3.5 inch diskettes, all the better. If you don't, we will happily receive submissions in any form – typed, written, printed or painted!

From the Editor

As we begin a new year and a new volume of *T & L*, I must thank all the people who make this journal an important natural history resource for, and of, the National Capital Region. As a team (authors, reviewers and editorial staff) we aim to bring you accuracy of information as well as interesting content. That is we try to keep errors at a minimum. It is long overdue, but I would like to thank the following people who have reviewed authors' submissions and made helpful suggestions, before we went to print: Albert Dugal for reviewing articles on plants, Peter Hall for butterflies, Dr. Lubomir Masner for wasps, James Redner and Dr. Charles Dondale for spiders, Dr. Philip Youngman for mammals, Tony Beck and Bob Bracken for birds, Elizabeth Morton for reviewing poetry, and Bill Gummer for final checking of the copy before we go to press. And of course I am most grateful to my right hand lady, Sandra Gushue who actually puts the whole thing together.

We are proud to congratulate Dr. Robert Nero on the publication of his second book of poetry, "The Mulch Pile and other poems." It is nice to know that several of his poems first appeared in *T & L*. ☞

Snow Birds

Robert Nero

The storm that overnight
brought soft wet snow
cascading off trees and rooftops,
a gentle avalanche,
left an alpine postcard look
that lasted for most of a day;
when it warmed
a quiet sloughing occurred
snow sliding off boughs
that slowly rebounded
leaving blobs of snow
perched on bare branches
like lost toys or
birds sculpted by children
and, at evening, astonishing
grouse-like forms
silhouetted against the sky.

Council Report

Dave Smythe

Council Report is back after a few years of dormancy! With this issue we hope it will once again become a regular feature of *T & L*, informing members of the more important business conducted by Council. As might be expected, some business at Council meetings is routine and not worthy of reporting here. Some items are important enough to warrant a full report in *T & L*. Council Report will try to keep you informed of interesting and important business that might otherwise go unreported.

Fletcher Wildlife Garden

After several years of planning, negotiation and now hard physical work, the Fletcher Wildlife Garden is a reality. The Garden is a partnership with the OFNC, Agriculture Canada and Friends of the Central Experimental Farm (FCEF), the organization established by Agriculture Canada to manage all non-governmental activity on the Farm. A memorandum of understanding setting out the relationship between OFNC and FCEF was signed on September 12. It provides for a management committee chaired by OFNC and guidelines for the individual and joint responsibilities of the partners. OFNC is expected to take the lead in establishing a natural history baseline inventory and monitoring changes to it, in managing the finances, and in education and interpretation. Both parties will share in planning, implementation of the plan, fund raising and public relations.

A special part of the garden, the Model Backyard Garden habitat, is being developed by OFNC, FCEF and the Ottawa Chapter of Landscape Ontario, an association of professional and commercial landscape organizations. A second memorandum of understanding defining the relationship of these three parties was also signed on September 12.

Agriculture Canada has permitted the use of building 138 on the site for temporary storage of materials and equipment. Negotiations are underway to obtain the use of this building on a more permanent basis as a meeting place and interpretative centre.

FON Annual Conference and General Meeting

In the last issue of *T & L*, Frank Pope wrote about this successful event. At the October meeting of Council, he reported that despite a lower than anticipated

attendance, there was a profit of approximately \$2,800 to be shared equally with the Federation of Ontario Naturalists.

Birds Committee

The Birds Committee has revised the "Birder's Checklist of Ottawa," last published in 1985. Copies will be on sale at monthly meetings and at various retail outlets. The checklist is a valuable source of information on birds reported within a 50 km radius of Parliament Hill, giving the most likely location and time of year for 335 species.

Over the years, the Committee has accumulated a large volume of records; rare birds reports, bird sighting reports, bird counts and minutes. A major effort is now underway to inventory and consolidate these for future use.

In January, a group in Richmond asked OFNC for moral support and advice on establishing a bird sanctuary in the old Richmond sewage lagoons (no longer in use). The Club accepted and has been represented by Tony Beck, Chairman of the Birds Committee. The sanctuary is accessible from a small parking lot on Eagleson Road just south of the Richmond Nursery. Imagine a sewage lagoon (former) where you don't have to climb a fence!

Gifts In Kind

From time to time, OFNC receives gifts; usually money but sometimes tangible goods, most recently a parabolic microphone. Council has adopted a policy for issuing charitable donation receipts which will provide fair recognition to the donor and protect the Club's status as a charitable organization. In the case of gifts of tangible goods, the Council must approve the action based on a prior evaluation by the Finance Committee of the worth of the goods. ▢

Urgently Needed

Someone to look after the Davidson Road Bird Feeder.

Bill and Donna Miller, who have been looking after this feeder, will be moving. They would like to initiate someone else into the joys of keeping local bird visitors well-fed during Ottawa's cold winter. To volunteer, please call them at 521-4212 and they will gladly help you get started. Bird seed is supplied by the Club but someone is needed to replenish the seed as needed — about once a week. You'll need a 30 ft. extension ladder to install the feeder and to take it down at the end of the season which usually runs from the end of October to the beginning of April. ▢

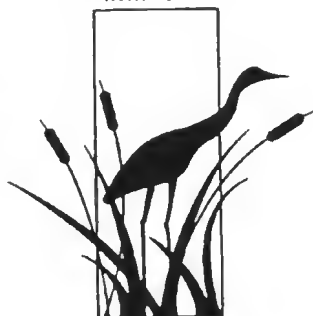
Fletcher Wildlife Garden

Jennifer Chaundy

Sixteen and a half acres of land in the Experimental Farm are being used to demonstrate how one can change our home and cottage properties to encourage a greater use by wildlife. We in Ottawa are fortunate to have such a central location for this.

During this year we met fifteen times and there were from six to fifteen volunteers present. We planted, mulched, weeded and placed tree guards to protect against mice. With Consumers Gas financial support, we planted over two hundred shrubs at one of the July gatherings which ended with an enjoyable barbecue. The Ottawa Chapter of Landscape Ontario have made themselves responsible for the Model Backyard Garden which will feature plants with low maintenance and no fertilizers.

Jardin écologique
Fletcher
Wildlife Garden



If you would like to meet other members of the OFNC and the Friends of the Farm, why not join the happy group of volunteers who meet at the Experimental Farm throughout the growing season. After all, it is fun to eventually see the results of our labours turning the manicured grass and trees into a variety of habitats. Next season we hope to arrange regular outings during the week and the weekends. If you would like to join us call the coordinator of volunteers, Robina Bennett at 829-0958 or phone the Director of Planning and Operations, Michael Murphy at 727-1739.☐

In Memory of Bill Holland

On Thursday, November 25, Bill Holland, who has helped so much with the birds aspect of the Wildlife Garden since its set-up, passed away while on the job.

The Club has thus lost a very valuable and active member, and on behalf of our members we express our sincere sympathy to his family.☐

A Trans-Atlantic Look at the Ottawa Birds and Birders

*Kauri Mikkola
The Finnish Museum of Natural History
P.O. Box 17
FIN-0014 University of Helsinki, Finland*



Figure 1. A Holarctic birding group equipped with butterfly nets. The broadened interests of Ottawa birders is a nice and welcome phenomenon. (Butterflies were caught in glass jars for determination and then released.) From left to right: D. Gravel, the author (seemingly in the process of changing shoes), R.A. Bracken and B. Penny. Photo: K. Mikkola.

My first bird in Canada, an hour after landing at Mirabel Airport on a wintery day in late January 1985, was nothing less than a Snowy Owl. Since then, I have seen several of them in the Ottawa area. During my second one-year-trip to Canada, in January 1993, I was lucky enough to see a still better arctic bird, the Gyrfalcon. It was powerfully hunting in the geese-frequented fields in Nepean.

Both of these species are regarded as great goodies in another capital region, the Helsinki area, Finland. In the south of that country, for a period of about 40 years, I have had only half a dozen observations of Snowies (although once I saw four birds at one time), and I have seen just one Gyrfalcon, and that was actually 150 km west of Helsinki.

These superb creatures belong to the group known as Holarctic birds, meaning that they occur in both the Palaearctic (by and large Eurasian) and Nearctic (North American) Zones. Arctic birds often show Holarctic distributions. The question is why do these birds seem to be more frequent in the Ottawa region than around Helsinki? According to latitude, Helsinki's position is comparable to northernmost Labrador; Ottawa, by contrast, is at the latitude of southern France. This discrepancy and many other zoogeographic problems have been on my mind while birding in the Ottawa area. The differences in the bird-watching traditions are interesting too.

One who meets birders on two different continents, necessarily notes differences in the birders' behaviour and equipment. Some of these differences are dependent upon the geography and bird fauna of the respective areas, others are of a more practical nature, such as differences in spotting scopes.

In continental Europe, birders mainly scan through their scopes at a 45° angle, while the British and Americans use straight scopes. While birding round Ottawa, we joked and teased each other about this. The 45° scopes spread quickly in Finland during the 1970's. They are better for lengthy watching of migrations, particularly if many birds are passing overhead.

To joke or not to joke when birding?

I found, by the way, that there is a difference regarding jokes. In the winter of 1991-92, I was lucky enough to make the Christmas Bird count on both continents. Somewhere in Ottawa, around Westboro, I was told by my partners about a robin and a mockingbird in the same tree. This I believed, and was embarrassed about that. At home we do not fool around with bird observations. Perhaps this sounds too serious, but it reminds me of an Aesop story about a boy in a remote village who used to fool people about wolves. When a wolf really did come, the boy screamed again, but nobody believed him then, and he was eaten.

The Christmas count itself seems to be a more serious event in Finland. The routes are kept exactly the same from year to year. The daylight hours (only six or less of them) are used effectively for bird watching, and even the commonest birds are individually counted. The results have been used in numerous scientific articles describing population trends of the winter birds. In the Ottawa

Count, a pleasant symposium was held at lunch time in a roadside restaurant. The afternoon was devoted to more free birding, partly according to news heard at lunch from other groups. In Finland, the various areas are not covered on a prechosen day as in Ottawa, rather, each group tries to select a day with as good weather as possible during a ten-day census period.

In the Ottawa area I found the public feeders (Jack Pine Trail, Pink Road, etc.) to be a pleasant and positive tradition. I have already made attempts to spread this idea in the Helsinki area. On the other hand, nesting boxes are not as widely used in Ottawa as around the Helsinki region. It might be that fewer small passerines come to boxes (Eastern Bluebird and Purple Martins), but at least for the owls (Screech, Saw-whet and Boreal) one could hang more boxes.

In Finland, even schoolchildren — rookies — use Latin names in their notebooks. Scientific names constitute a nice international language, but in North America, relatively few bird watchers know and use them. I had the good luck in Ottawa to have Mr. R. A. Bracken as guide and good friend. He is able to use Latin names for ornithology and in conversations on plants, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and even on butterflies and dragonflies.

I heard that in Ottawa the number of bird-watchers is in decline, the lowest that it has been in decades. Only about half a dozen birders were seen during a weekend day. In Helsinki, a capital similar in population size to Ottawa, one may easily see tens of them stirring on a single good cliff. In the monthly meetings of the local ornithological society, "Tringa," approximately 100 people gather. In spite of the lower numbers, the best Ottawa birders are admirably skillful in the field.

The rarity-hunters are better organized and technically more advanced in Finland. They have their own "Twitchers' Union," comprising nearly 500 members. They arrange regular meetings with presentations about the determinations of rare species, their sexes and ages, and slide-shows about birding in remote countries. The union's main goals are to coordinate rarity-watching and to prevent harm to the birds or to the land-owners. From their journals one may find out that the leading personal list from Finland contains 360 species (no escapes), and that the single year record is 284 species.

While Ottawa birders still rely on the telephone hot-line, the Finnish birders carry different electronic text-finders (pagers) in their pockets, having progressed from using code-finders. These pagers cost about \$500 (Canadian) plus \$50/year (\$20/month with a personal text channel). About 200 Finnish birders have already made this investment. There are two separate channels for birding, one for the great rarities and one for recording aspects of bird life. The

usefulness of these devices are evident in the following examples. Twice in the Spring of 1993, rare Lesser Spotted Eagles (*Aquila pomarina*) ventured into the Helsinki area. Their movements were followed from several observation points as one finder passed on information to the next. Many advancing geese migrations along the Gulf of Finland have been followed with the aid of these text-finders. A somewhat similar, but much more complicated and expensive system, is in use in Great Britain.

Continental versus coastal areas

The main difference in birding between the two capital areas seems to be due to the fact that Helsinki is coastal, situated on the Baltic Sea, whereas Ottawa is distinctly continental. Helsinki is more like Nova Scotia although hardly any exclusively oceanic birds like gannets, fulmars and puffins are seen there. The coastline and the Gulf of Finland form a leading edge for migrations. The watching for migrations by birders is strongly emphasized.

A good migratory movement (except for Canada Geese) is quite a rare event in Ottawa. In contrast, Finnish birders crowd at landtips and cliffs all along the rugged coast, every spring and fall weekend, and note numbers and directions of the migrations of different species from early morning to early afternoon. The most heralded events are the great movements of cranes, geese and raptors, and of arctic birds flying towards northern Siberia. Usually only the late afternoon is devoted to roaming through the forests and bays in search of passerines and ducks.

Another difference lies in the wetland habitats. In the Ottawa region, broad expanses of cattail (*Typha*) are more common whereas these are mainly replaced by reeds (*Phragmites*) in Finland. The latter seem to have a more diverse bird fauna. This is particularly evident in the so-called night singers (not found in North America). In the Helsinki area, late May and early June is the time for special night excursions, mainly near reeds, to find passerines of the genera *Acrocephalus* (Reed Warblers), *Locustella* (warblers) and *Luscinia* (Thrush-nightingales) as well as rallids.

On the other hand, the diverse bird fauna of the deciduous forests of the Ottawa region is non-existent or much poorer in Finland. The great numbers of migratory birds which pass through the Ottawa area in mid May, and which are best seen at Point Pelee National Park, well outside the 50 km radius of the Ottawa area, indicates the vastness of the boreal forests north of Ottawa. That kind of synchronous wave of passerines is a phenomenon unknown in Finland.

The Canadian birds look more colourful and prettier to me than ours. I think about the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, the Eastern Bluebird, the American

Kestrel, and even the so-called warblers which are much prettier than the brown and gray ones in the Old World. But North American warbler songs are painfully difficult to recognize!

Holarctic zoogeography

The Gulf Stream has a warming influence on Finland and neighbouring countries, keeping them warmer than land masses at the same latitude in North America. The greater number of some arctic raptors and owls in the Ottawa area might be due to their immense source area. For somebody coming from Finland, it is hard to understand the vastness of the boreal belt of Canada. Of course Finland gets some invasions of these birds from northern Siberia, but this does not happen regularly.

To find boreal forests in Finland like those in the northern parts of La Vérendrye Provincial Park, Québec, you have to go to Kuusamo or Salla in the northeast. Only 300 km further and you come to the northern limit of spruce (*Picea abies*). I tried to reach the northern limit of trees in Québec with Dave Gravelle. We drove more than 1000 km northward and found ourselves in Chisasibi at James Bay. Yet the coniferous forest still looked about the same!

In the urban bird life, the dominance of introduced species from the Palearctic, such as the sparrow (or house-weaver as Bob correctly calls it), starling and pigeon, is highly depressing and I don't want to write more about that.

An overwhelming number of true Holarctic birds of both the Nearctic or North American Continent and also found in the Palearctic or northern Eurasian Continent are either boreal/arctic or waterfowl/seabirds. Of these, the most distinctively Holarctic groups are the paddling ducks and owls. Six of the seven ducks of Finland and six of the ten Finnish breeding owls can be seen in the Ottawa area. The Holarctic proportion of the gulls and terns is also high. The northernmost passerines, Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur, Redpoll and Raven are also Holarctic.

Among the waders there are surprisingly few Holarctic species, except for the migrants from the High Arctic, like the Gray Plover and the Ruddy Turnstone. In fact, I feel that the Common Snipe may be a different species in North America. The "song" is clearly deeper than in Europe and it may be that the structure of the marginal tail feathers is different. The Common Snipe does not occur in northeastern Siberia as would be expected from a Holarctic species.

In the passerines, there are two unexpectedly temperate birds which are found in both North America and in northern Eurasia, the Winter Wren and the Barn Swallow. They are the only naturally Holarctic, temperate passerines, having changed their migratory behaviours, overwintering in southern North America

and in South America, respectively. Actually, the Winter Wren belongs to a Nearctic group and may be secondarily found in the Palearctic. In some cases, the temperate taxa of the continents are pairs of sister species such as the Willow Tit and the Black-capped Chickadee, and the Northern and American Treecreeper, of which, in each case, there is no doubt that they are distinct species.

A strange lack in the Ottawa area is the Magpie. It occurs in western Canada, but I do not understand what factor prevents it from spreading eastward, competition or what? In Helsinki, and in many European cities it has recently shown flexibility by invading urban areas. The only contributing factor known is the decrease of persecution. The Yellow-billed Magpie of California, possibly just a subspecies but generally considered to be a distinct species, indicates that the Magpie is an old inhabitant of North America, but why are they so conservative?

In two cases a single species in Canada is represented by a complex of species in the Old World. In place of the American Robin, Europe has several thrushes of the genus *Turdus*. The Horned Lark, itself a Holarctic species, is one of several closely related species in Europe. Both cases are good examples of what happens when competition is missing. In Canada these birds are incredibly widespread and ecologically flexible compared with their Palearctic allies. Perhaps this concept can be generalized to include the Nearctic birders; they seem to show more flexibility than their Palearctic counterparts (Figure 1).[□]

A Good Reason to be Nocturnal

Jack Holiday

At least once a year, I check the chimney flue to ensure it isn't blocked. On my chimney this is easy, since the flue has no bends. Opening the clean-out door at the base of the chimney, I hold a mirror at a 45° angle so I can see up to the sky above.

Chimneys get blocked, most commonly by pieces of the flue liner deteriorating and falling across the flue; less commonly by squirrels, or starlings building nests. Even a partially blocked flue allows dangerous gases to escape into the house.

This year, I was surprised to find that a piece of the tile had fallen, partially blocking the gases from escaping. Within days, I had contracted to have the top 3-4 feet of chimney re-built.

While standing in the laneway, looking in admiration at the workers skillfully laying new bricks to replace the broken portion they had removed, my attention was re-focussed on three noisy crows.

A pair of crows had nested in a tall oak across the street and successfully raised one young. (Two other young crows were found dead at the base of the tree; cause unknown.). The three crows returned to this area frequently during the day, but spent hours away foraging for food. Several times a day, they raised a noisy alarm. Often, the cause was a cat. Sometimes, it was a "stranger" — a crow trespassing or a hawk. Occasionally, the intruder was a great Horned Owl, in which case, every crow within ear-shot soon came hurriedly to enjoy the fun of pestering the owl. (No doubt, many a crow pays the price come nightfall).

On this occasion, the three crows were circling and climbing in pursuit of what I at first thought was a bird but which resolved itself into a bat. Probably a Big Brown Bat.

The bat was fluttering furiously, trying to gain height, but within seconds the crows easily flew higher and one grabbed the bat's wing in its beak. The bat tore free and fell toward the earth, pursued by the three diving crows. All disappeared from my view behind trees. I have no doubt that the bat was dispatched and eaten by one of the crows.

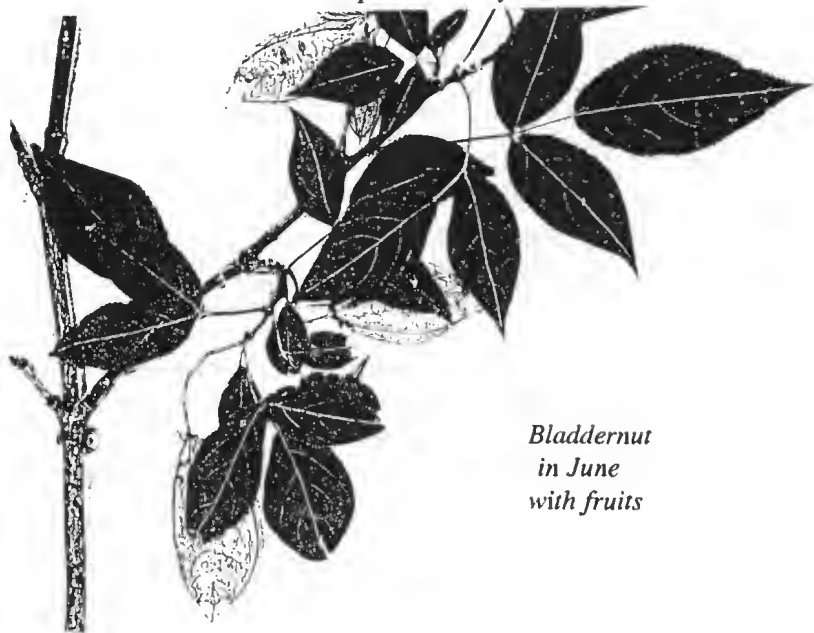
I had always supposed bats were active at night because their insect food was most plentiful then. Perhaps another reason is that their powers of flight are not equal to birds, and in daylight they become easy prey for any number of birds. Falcons and accipiters, birds of prey, would find them easy pickings. Opportunistic-feeding birds like crows and gulls wouldn't hesitate to catch such an easy meal.

The bats' inability to compete with birds in flying may be the primary reason they are nocturnal and the reason they hide away in caves, attics and hollow trees during the hours of daylight. Who could blame them?☐



The Bladdernut Shrub (*Staphylea trifolia* L.) on the North Castor River

Stephen J. Darbyshire



*Bladdernut
in June
with fruits*

In 1980 Albert Dugal provided an update on the Bladdernut shrub, *Staphylea trifolia* L., growing along the North Castor River where it crosses the 9th Concession road in Osgoode Township (*T & L* 14: 114). First found at this site (45°17'30"N, 75°28'40"W) by Anne Hanes in 1962, this unusual and rare plant was then represented by only a single shrub growing close to the road. The condition of the plant, as reported in Albert's note, suggested that its survival might be tenuous at this site and that its proximity to the road did not bode well. Re-investigation of this site in June of 1993 revealed that the original shrub had been cut down, leaving a 'stump' about 3 centimetres across. This has not been a problem for the plant and in fact seems to have stimulated further sprouting not only at the old base but in clumps over a ten metre radius. Many vigorous clumps of sprouts now occur and although they are small, less than 2 meters high, one was flowering in June 1993.

OFNC S



PLACE: Unitarian Church Hall
30 Cleary Street
#2 and #18 Buses stop at Cleary Street and Richmond Road

RESERVATIONS: To order tickets, fill in the order form and send it along with remittance before **April 15** to:

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club
c/o Ellaine Dickson
2037 Honeywell Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario K2A 0P7

Soirée

Wine & Cheese Party

Friday, April 29, 1994, 7:30 p.m.

- selection of wines ■ cheese & crackers ■ tea & coffee
- non-alcoholic punch ■ fruit

Help make this another festive evening by coming to our annual party and mingling with fellow naturalists.

Join us in honoring The Member of the Year and recipients of the Service Award, Anne Hanes Natural History Award, Conservation Awards and the President's Prize.



Members are invited to exhibit photographic prints and original art on a natural history theme. The best overall colour or B. & W. photograph will be selected by ballot and a prize awarded to the lucky winner.

Mount display items for easy handling and bring them to the Unitarian Church between 4 and 7 p.m. on Friday, April 29th. Everything is to be taken home at the end of the evening. To reserve exhibition space and for further information contact Philip Martin (729-3218).

Prizes will also be awarded for the best Macoun Field Club displays. Children (primary or high school) who are OFNC members but not Macoun Field Club members are also encouraged to compete.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ phone _____

Please send me _____ tickets to the OFNC Annual Soirée at \$8.00(\$3.50 for students under 18) per person. Enclosed please find my cheque or money order for \$

While investigating the flood plain of the North Castor River between the 8th and 11th Concession between 1991 and 1993 another small and thriving colony of the Bladdernut shrub was located. Just upstream from (west of) the 10th Concession Road (45°16'50"N, 75°26'45"W) groups of shrubs, totaling nine scattered clumps, were located on either side of the river. The plants are quite vigorous, the larger ones are up to about 4 meters high and in clonal patches up to about 5 meters across. Many plants produced abundant fruits in the 1991 season. Surveys up and down the river have, so far, failed to reveal any further colonies, but the area is very difficult to traverse due to the tortuous meanderings of the river through the heavy clay soils of this region. Small groups or single shrubs could easily have been overlooked.

The plants at the 10th Concession are well away from the road and not likely to be affected by the summer dust, winter salt and other hazards associated with roadsides. Best of all they are at a bend in the river that is unlikely to be ravaged by roadworks, housing development or agricultural expansion. The land-owner, Mr. S. Korteweg, indicated that the land occupied by the shrubs is inundated in the spring by flood waters. Only one shrub, on a high bank, probably escapes regular flooding. Shrubs located at slightly higher spots tend to leaf and flower earlier in the spring than the shrubs at lower sites which emerge from the flood water somewhat later. Flowering takes place in late May and early June, not long after the leaves appear.

Some of the key plant associates mentioned by Dr. Illman (1980) and Albert Dugal, Carrion-flower (*Smilax herbacea* L.), Moonseed (*Menispermum canadense* L.) and Prickly Ash (*Xanthoxylum americanum* Mill.), were seen in the immediate area or nearby this newly discovered colony. In the Ottawa area these plants are largely restricted to riparian woodland habitats. The woods where the shrubs are growing are composed mostly of Manitoba Maple (*Acer negundo* L.) and Basswood (*Tilia americana* L.) with some Black Ash (*Fraxinus nigra* Marsh.), Red Maple (*Acer rubrum* L.) and Elm (*Ulmus americana* L.). Other interesting species frequently associated with flood plains in the Ottawa area were also noted, such as Wild Cucumber (*Echinocystis lobata* (Michx.) Torrey & A. Gray), Clearweed (*Pilea pumila* (L.) A. Gray), Brome Grass (*Bromus latiglumis* (Shear) A. S. Hitchc.; = *B. altissimus* Pursh) and Wirestem Muhly (*Muhlenbergia frondosa* (Poir.) Fern.).

Several other interesting locations of the Bladdernut shrub (all outside the Ottawa District) have been brought to my attention since the appearance of previous notes in *Trail & Landscape* (Darbyshire 1987, Darbyshire et al. 1984). Another two stations have been found along the Moira River, one reported by Jack Halliday near Rosselin (44°22'45"N, 77°19'12"W) and another by Albert

Dugal south of Stoco Lake (44°26'N, 77°17'W). Another two stations have been reported from southeast of Ottawa, one along the DeLisle River (45°18'N, 74°43'20"W), about 7 km west of Alexandra, by Pat Ferguson, and another about 6 km southwest of Alexandria along the Garry River (45°16'N, 74°41'W). The latter two are particularly interesting as they fill a gap in previous maps (Darbyshire et al. 1984, Soper and Heimbürger 1982) for the central portion of eastern Ontario. Post glacial migration routes into eastern Ontario have been suggested by Dr. Dore (1962) (mainly along the Rideau and Nation Rivers) and would seem to be the most likely penetration path for this region. The present information is consistent with this theory. The locations documented since Dr. Dore's article only indicate that the shrub is, and probably was, more widely distributed than previously thought.

The presence of small colonies along the banks of rivers is easiest to detect in late fall or in winter because some bladders tend to persist after the leaves have fallen. Unfortunately not all colonies would seem to be particularly fertile (productive) as is the case with the Petrie Island stand (Darbyshire 1987). This is possibly due to the presence of only a single genetic strain in the small colonies of our region. Thus there may be many more small patches of shrubs scattered along the various river systems and creeks in the district that have not come to light. Although the foliage is distinctive and generally stands out in the summer from other riparian shrubbery, the shrubs are often hard to distinguish in the rank summer vegetation of these sites. Further locations will likely be uncovered through accident or very careful search. Where will it turn up next? Keep your eyes open for the distinctive bladders while cross-country skiing along the river courses in the region.

Literature cited

- Darbyshire, S. J., 1987. More on the Bladdernut Shrub. *Trail & Landscape* 21(1): 26-28.
- Darbyshire, S. J., A. Letourneau and M. Manga, 1984. A Macoun Field Club Trip to Kettle Island. *Trail & Landscape* 18(5): 228-232.
- Dore, W. G., 1962. The Bladdernut Shrub at Ottawa. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 76(2): 100-103.
- Dugal, A., 1980. [Bladdernut Rediscovered] On the North Castor River. *Trail & Landscape* 14(4): 114.
- Illman, B., 1980. Bladdernut Rediscovered. *Trail & Landscape* 14(4): 112-114.
- Soper, J. H. and M. L. Heimbürger, 1982. *Shrubs of Ontario*. Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto. □

The Bill Mason Outdoor Education Centre

Annette Murray



Photo by Annette Murray.

Visiting this centre was the highlight of an OFNC "Spring Wildflowers" walk on a sunny and mosquito-free Saturday, May 8th, 1993. During a slow walk around the paths and boardwalk, leaders Philip Martin and Ellaine Dickson identified four club mosses (ground cedar, ground pine, shining club moss, rattail club moss), horsetails, and five species of willow. Ferns seen were cinnamon, sensitive, lady and bracken. Wildflowers included: wild calla, trout lily, clintonia, foam flower, mitrewort, white and purple trillium, goldthread, starflower, sweet white violet, sarsaparilla, blue cohosh and bunchberry. Shrubs noted included fly honeysuckle, leatherwood, red osier dogwood, hobblebush and wild raisin. Two species of butterflies, Mourning Cloak and Blue Azure, flew by. As an extra bonus on this walk, and of interest to birders, over 14 species of birds were seen. Virginia and Sora Rails called many times.

The Bill Mason Outdoor Education Centre, just off Dunrobin Road, behind The West Carleton Secondary School, Dunrobin, proved to be a good spot, not only for botanists and birders but also for those interested in pond life, e.g.

mosquito larvae (0.2 -0.5 inches long), water mites, frogs, snails, caddisfly larvae and newts.

This most enjoyable walk ended with a genial social time and lunch in the spacious picnic area near the entrance.

Editor's note:

This wonderful outdoor education facility is owned and operated by the Carleton Board of Education, and I'm told it is fully booked by different school groups throughout the school year. The trails and boardwalk traversing this area are open to the public, when classes are not in session. The Board honoured the memory of Bill Mason, local Canadian environmentalist, canoeist, author and award-winning filmmaker whose work reflected his concern for the environment.☞

Learning to See

Linda Jeays

One summer day, I discovered a boy in my garden.
Hunting softballs? Stealing flowers? Trespassing?
He said his name was Adam. I smiled.
"Do you have any feathers in your garden?" he asked.
How could I know? I was blind to feathers.
I shook my head. Toads. Weeds. Caterpillars.
These I had seen and recognized.
Hopeful, Adam looked straight into my eyes.
"My favorites are Blue Jay feathers," he said.

Since that day, I trip over feathers.
They perch on blades of grass, float in puddles,
Lie waiting for me on sidewalks and sandbanks -
In every meadow. The world is full of feathers.



The End of the Rainbow?

Bruce Winterbon

I found a pot of gold one morning. It was in mist, not at the end of a rainbow, but I think it was the same pot of gold.

Paddling in fog and mist can be a marvellous experience. Usually winds are light, and sounds are hushed. Islands and shorelines loom mysteriously, and the play of light on mist and solids is beautiful. When the mist is light it is patchy, so the Rorschach shapes of clouds are all around, instead of only overhead.

When I paddled more regularly on the Ottawa River, the fog often entertained me. On cold mornings in the fall, tendrils of mist rise a foot or three, like steam from a cauldron. Gulls fly in and out of the mist. Once I saw the tendrils join into sparse columns, ten meters across and thirty high. One evening a low mist blanket upriver imitated a huge rapid, as wide as the river, and extending as far upriver as I could see. I could even see the fog tumbling downstream, so the rapids were there in all but sound. Yes, it can be very beautiful.

A week before seeing my pot of gold, I was paddling in fog on salt water. On the way back from the island we had visited, the fog thickened, and my new deck compass paid for itself in a few minutes. But here on the Ottawa River our crossings are shorter, and usually the fog is thinner, so a compass is seldom needed. One can enjoy the fog with less fear of getting temporarily lost.

I was paddling in a moderate fog. At first, shores one to two hundred metres away were just darker shadows, but soon I could make out both shores at the same time. Then the pot of gold appeared, an insubstantial cauldron floating on the water, measuring about ten metres across but not quite as high, and glowing golden. Another golden pot was behind it, a bit higher up. I paddled over for a better look, and as I got closer I saw the disk of the sun through the edge of the cloud. The hole in the cloud was small enough that only a little spot was in sunlight; the pot behind was just over the tops of some trees. Closer still, and I could see the shadows of the trees on the ridge, cast on the golden mist. Only the thicker mist, just over the trees and just above the water, glowed golden. Between, the mist was too thin for the sun to ignite it.

I had always assumed that the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow was pure fiction; now I think that it is what I saw that morning, or something like it. My pot of gold was between me and the sun. When one sees a rainbow, the sun is

behind, so it is not quite the same thing. This pot of gold has the advantage that it can be shared only with those who are there; tax collectors and finance ministers must do without. ☐

Intruder in the Bush

David Fraser

Who is this intruder in the bush:

Walking stiffly
On two hind legs,
To set his vision closer to the clouds;
Noisy as a jay,
Clumsy as a porcupine,
Whose scent makes even wolves turn back in fear?

Pity any creature so deformed:



Thin and hairless,
Unable to bear cold,
Afraid, like hearth-bred cats, to splash through water;
His nose dwarfed and weak,
Too high above the ground
To read the messages of tracks and markings;
His ear flat and shrivelled,
Fixed against his head,
Oblivious alike to sound or silence;
His foot so large and leaden
That the scornful forest floor
Crackles in contempt beneath his passing.

What does such a creature do to hide so many defects?

He builds a world apart
Where he may live in comfort
And call himself Creation's finest work.

For Club Photographers... A Challenge

Betty Campbell

Take on a photo assignment for the club!

The Education Committee is collecting slides on various subjects as a resource for those Club members who are willing to speak about naturalist subjects at various gatherings outside the Club. Some subjects that we would like to cover are:

What Can We See in Our Own Back Yard?

Many of the requests that we have for speakers are for groups that do not, or cannot, travel very far afield. We would, therefore, like to have slides of the everyday animals, birds, insects, mushrooms and wild flowers one can see in a city environment.

Habitats:

A longer term project is to assemble slides that will illustrate the plants and animals to be found in a specific habitat such as wetlands, farm lands and wooded areas. These slides would be used for more technical talks. Think of the identification features of a plant, or what gives it its name, or its habitat, and capture that in a photograph.

The Fletcher Wildlife Garden:

What better time to capture the "before" pictures. Has anyone slides of the Opening Day? Last year's cleanup and planting? The bird house building? If you are there this year (and subsequent years), take a slide or two for the Club records.

And don't forget to include people in some of the photographs (noting whom, where and when).

Contact the Education & Publicity Committee when you have a contribution:

Dave Moore, Chairman, 729-9330(H), 996-9384(W)

Betty Campbell (Display Coordinator) 523-6632^{sq}

Club Publications and Other Items for Sale

Bill Gummer

This updated list is based on the Finance Committee's recommendations; our last published list was in *T&L* Vol. 25, No. 2.

ITEM	PRICE	POSTAGE & HANDLING
Nature and Natural Areas in Canada's Capital, by Daniel F. Brunton	\$10.00	\$4.00
Lichens of the Ottawa Region, by I.M. Brodo	10.00	3.00
Autobiography of John Macoun	12.50	4.00
Songs of the Seasons, by Monty Brigham		
Tape	* 11.50	2.50
L.P. Record	* 9.50	
Index to the Transactions of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club and the Ottawa Naturalist (1879-1918)	25.00	4.00
<i>Trail & Landscape</i> ,		
INDEX (Vols. 1 to 20 incl.)	8.00	2.00
INDEX (Vols. 21 to 25 incl.)	3.00	2.00
Issues from current & last 2 Volumes	4.00	2.00
All earlier issues	2.50	2.00
A Guide to the Geology of the Ottawa District, by Alice Wilson (<i>CFN</i> , Vol. 70, 1956)	1.50	—
A Guide to the Geology of the Gatineau-Lièvre District, by Donald Hogarth (<i>CFN</i> , Vol. 76, 1962)	1.50	—
A Birder's Checklist of Ottawa (1993)	1.00	—
Ottawa District Bird Field List (Tick Sheet)	3 for 0.50	—
Owl Shoulder Patch	2.00	—
Owl Decal	0.75	—
Owl Club Pin (both brooch and stick pin styles)	3.00	—
T-Shirt, "Ottawa Field Naturalist"	20.00	—
(Everything included in this one price)		

*Ontario residents include 8% Sales Tax on these items only but no GST.

Back issues of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* are also available, and quotations will be supplied on request.

For mail orders for any of the above, send your requests along with a cheque or money order (payable to the Club) to The Ottawa Field-Naturalist's Club, Box 35069, Westgate. P.O., Ottawa, Ont. K1Z 1A2. These items are often available at monthly meetings; make your purchase there and avoid the extra charges. □

Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions & Lectures Committee

For further information,

call the Club number (722-3050) after 10 a.m.

Times stated for excursions are departure times. Please arrive earlier; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to ask the leader. Restricted trips will be open to non-members only after the indicated deadlines.

ALL OUTINGS: *Please bring a lunch on full-day trips and dress according to the weather forecast and the activity. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes are essential on all birding trips. Unless otherwise stated, transportation will be by car pool.*

REGISTERED BUS TRIPS: *Make your reservation for Club bus excursions by sending a cheque or money order (payable to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club) to E.M. Dickson, 2037 Honeywell Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K2A 0P7, at least ten days in advance. Include your name, address, telephone number and the name of the outing. Your cooperation is appreciated by the Committee so that we do not have to wait to the last moment to decide whether a trip should be cancelled due to low registration. We also wish to discourage the actual payment of bus fees on the day of the event.*

EVENTS AT THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE: *The Club is grateful to the Museum for their cooperation and thanks the Museum for the use of these excellent facilities. Club members must be prepared to show their membership cards to gain access for Club functions after regular museum hours. There is a charge for parking in the museum lot.*

BIRD STATUS LINE: *Phone 761-1967. The service is run by Larry Neily. Club members (and non-members) may call to learn up-to-date news on birding potential in the Ottawa district. (See T&L Vol. 22, No. 3, page 123.)*

Club des Ornithologues de l'Outaouais has a similar service, in French, run by Daniel St. Hilaire. The Club number is 776-3822 and the Bird Status Line is 778-0737.

Tuesday

11 January

7:30 p.m.

OFNC 115th ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Meet: Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.

We will begin with some time to review the Annual Report, then proceed to consider the report, elect the new council, ratify the constitution discussed last year and receive a presentation on our publishing activities.

Saturday
15 January
10:00 a.m.
to
12:00 noon

**VISIT TO THE BOTANY COLLECTION OF
THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE**

Leaders: Mike Shchepanek and Albert Dugal

Meet: 1505 Laperriere Avenue.

A rare opportunity to tour the collection which contains approximately one million dried and pressed specimens, including vascular flowering plants, lichens, mosses and algae. The main emphasis will be on flowering plants but the tour will include the whole facility. If you are interested **PLEASE REGISTER WITH THE CLUB NUMBER (722-3050 after 10:00 a.m.) before January 12, 1994.**

Saturday
29 January
8:00 a.m.

WINTER BIRDING AT CORNWALL POWER DAM

Leader: Bruce Di Labio

Meet: Front entrance, Brooke Claxton Bldg. (Health and Welfare Canada), de la Colombine Blvd. at Tunney's Pasture. This full-day outing will be geared primarily toward the identification of overwintering gulls and waterfowl in the vicinity of the Moses-Saunders Power Dam. Expect the unexpected! Bring a lunch, warm drink and heavy winter clothing as well as proof of citizenship. (We may travel to the American side.) Transportation will be by private car.

Sunday
6 February
10:00 a.m.

SKI MARLBOROUGH FOREST

Leader: Don Cuddy

Meet: 9 kilometres southwest of North Gower on Roger Stevens Drive (Regional Road 6) at the first parking lot in the forest on the right hand side of the road. Participants should be prepared to ski 5 to 10 km over fairly level terrain. This outing to observe signs of nature in winter will last about four hours with a break for lunch.

Tuesday
8 February
8:00 p.m.

**OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
THROUGH THE LENS: A NATURE PHOTOGRAPHER'S
PERSPECTIVE OF PRESQU'ILE PROVINCIAL PARK**

Speaker: Tony Beck

Meet: Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature,
Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.

Tony's presentation will focus on the rich diversity of habitats that comprise the intricate natural fabric of the Park. His visual overview of this intriguing environment will be embellished with many captivating images of the local flora and fauna as seen throughout the four seasons.

Sunday
27 February
8:00 a.m.
to 8:00 p.m.



BUS EXCURSION:

WINTER RAPTORS OF THE KINGSTON AREA

Leaders: Bruce Di Labio and Tony Beck

Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.

Cost: \$15.00 (PLEASE REGISTER EARLY...see registered Bus Trips at the beginning of COMING EVENTS for details.)

This excursion will include a stop along the St. Lawrence River near Ivy Lea to search for wintering Bald Eagles and various species of waterfowl. The group will continue on to either Wolfe or Amherst Island to observe owls, hawks and other interesting birds in their habitats. The late return should permit an opportunity to witness owl activity at dusk. A stop for a light dinner will be made en route home, but be sure to bring your own lunch for this trip.

**Date to be
decided**

HONKERS AT BEARBROOK

Leader: Bruce Di Labio

Meet: Elmvale Shopping Centre, Northeast Corner of parking lot at St. Laurent Blvd. and Smyth Road.

This trip will be timed (late March/early April) for the peak of the spring water fowl migration. A variety of ducks and geese in extremely large numbers may be observed in the flooded fields to the east of Ottawa. In order to ensure that the trip runs at the optimum time, registrants will be contacted when a specific date has been selected.

PLEASE REGISTER WITH THE CLUB NUMBER (722-3050) after 10:00 a.m.

**Date and Time
to be decided**

AMPHIBIANS IN SPRING

Leader: Stephen Darbyshire

The success of this outing is highly dependent upon the weather. **THOSE REGISTERING WITH THE CLUB NUMBER (722-3050 AFTER 10:00 a.m.) BEFORE MARCH 15th** will be notified when final details of the trip have been made. A strong flashlight, rubber boots and a dip net (if possible) are recommended.

Saturday
5 March

TREES AND BUSHES IN LATE WINTER

Leader: Jim Wickware

Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.

This is an opportunity to explore a local area and learn to identify trees and bushes at this time of year. This trip is limited to the first 15 people to **REGISTER WITH THE CLUB NUMBER**, (722-3050, after 10:00 a.m., please.)

Tuesday
8 March
8:00 p.m.

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
PROTECTING CANADA'S NORTHERN AREAS

Speaker: Bruce Rigby

Meet: Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets

The recent creation of the Territory of Nunavut, a vast area representing $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Canadian land mass, has strengthened the need to develop cooperative management structures with the Inuit to preserve the integrity of important bioregions in the North. Bruce Rigby is the District Superintendent for National Parks in the Eastern Arctic and is directly involved in the development of national park initiatives and the corresponding management strategies. Three outstanding National Parks, North Baffin, Ellesmere Island and Auyuittuq will be featured as examples of this challenge. The presentation will be complemented with slides depicting significant aspects of Arctic flora and fauna.

Sunday
13 March
8:00 a.m.

LATE WINTER BIRDS AND EARLY SPRING MIGRANTS

Leader: Tony Beck

Meet: Westgate Shopping Centre, southeast corner of the parking lot, Carling Avenue and Merivale Road.

A half-day outing that may include hawks, owls, waterfowl, various species of finches and some early returning migrants.

Sunday
20 March
2:00 a.m. to
8:00 a.m.

EARLY MORNING OWLING

Leaders: Tony Beck and Bernie Ladouceur

Meet: Tim Horton Donuts, on the south side of Robertson Road (i.e., Old Hwy. 7) between the Richmond Road turnoff and Moodie Drive in Bells Corners.

Participants will have an opportunity to identify the diagnostic calls of several nocturnal species of owls. The trip is limited to the first 20 individuals to **REGISTER WITH THE CLUB NUMBER** (722-3050, after 10 a.m., please).

Sunday
10 April
6:30 a.m. to
6:30 p.m.

BUS EXCURSION: SPRING BIRDING AT PRESQU'ILE

Leaders: Colin Gaskell and Jack Romanow

Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, south east corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.

Cost: \$20.00 (PLEASE REGISTER EARLY... see Registered Bus Trips at the beginning of COMING EVENTS for details).

This popular spring tradition will focus on the large flocks of waterfowl that gather in the waters surrounding this provincial park prior to resuming their northward migration.

Tuesday
12 April
8:00 p.m.

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
OTTAWA VALLEY SPRING

Speakers: Sheila and Harry Thomson

Meet: Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.

Experience spring in the Valley, with Sheila and Harry (illustrated by Harry's superb slides). Come early to get a good seat.

Sunday
24 April
6:30 a.m. to
6:30 p.m.



BUS EXCURSION:
HAWKS ALOFT AT DERBY HILL, N.Y.

Leaders: Bob Bracken and Bernie Ladouceur

Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, southeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.

Cost: \$25.00 (PLEASE REGISTER EARLY...see Registered Bus Trips at the beginning of COMING EVENTS for details).

When weather conditions are favourable, the spectacle of the thousands of hawks migrating over Derby Hill is an amazing phenomenon well worth the bus ride. Please bring proof of citizenship for entry into the United States. Optical equipment in "new" condition should be registered with Canada Customs in advance of the trip. The trip will be cancelled on the day before if the weather forecast for the eastern end of Lake Ontario is particularly unfavourable. You will be notified of any change of plan.

Friday
29 April
7:30 p.m.

OFNC SOIRÉE WINE AND CHEESE PARTY AND
ANNUAL AWARDS

Meet: Unitarian Church Hall, 30 Cleary Street

See the centrefold for further details.☐

NEWFOUNDLAND BY COACH
Friday June 24, 1994 to Saturday July 9, 1994

Leaders: Monty Brigham & Tony Beck

Coordinator: Carol Lynch

Cost: \$1,500.00 (approximately) based on 25 participants (maximum 30).
Firm cost pending rate confirmations. (Some meals not included in price.)

Transportation: by 35-seater coach.

Day 1-2 Depart Ottawa 7:00 a.m. Two days of travel with lunch & rest stops.

Night 1 in Edmundston, N.B.

Night 2 in New Glasgow, N.S.

Day 3 A leisurely drive will bring us to North Sydney. We will then embark on a 6 hour ferry ride across the Cabot Strait to Port aux Basques. From deck we should see a variety of pelagic fauna like Fin, Humpback or Minke Whales; Greater, Sooty or Manx Shearwaters; Wilson's & Leaches Storm-petrels, Gannets, Fulmars or maybe even a Jaeger. Overnight in Port aux Basques.

Day 4-6 We shall explore the Stephenville area for shorebirds, Gulls & Terns. Common Black-headed Gulls breed here. The next stop will be Gros Morne National Park, the land of bogs, fjords, mountains and dunes.

Day five will have us exploring the trails of Gros Morne. The lush boreal forest will reveal the many northern plants and passerines. The energetic and sure-footed among us may choose to climb to the top of Gros Morne. With luck, we should be rewarded with Rock Ptarmigan.

Day six, we shall explore the park's rich beauty. Ample time will be taken to look for boreal forest breeders and migrant shore birds. Many unusual plants and flowers may be found as we gasp at the breathtaking scenery. Interesting mammals may also be present. Three nights in Rocky Harbour.

Day 7-8 **Day seven** will be a travel day to Terra Nova National Park. **Day eight** will include exploration of the park's boreal habitat and boat tours in Newman Sound. The tour should provide close views of Bald Eagles. Two nights in Clarenville.

- Day 9** This day will include the famous whale searching tours of Trinity Bay with opportunities to explore the surrounding area for terrestrial and marine life. Overnight in St. John's.
- Day 10** We shall experience the wildlife spectacle at the Witless Bay Sanctuary! Boat tours around the island colonies will reveal astounding numbers of Puffins, Kittiwakes, Murres, Razorbills and Shearwaters! Along the way we may see Fin and Humpback Whales. Overnight in St. John's.
- Day 11** A day to explore the Avalon Peninsula. We may see Caribou, Moose, Short-eared Owl or Merlin. We also may be lucky enough to watch Caplin spawning on the shores. Overnight in St. John's.
- Day 12** Travel to Cape St. Mary's to see the Northern Gannet colony. Along the cliffs we expect to see Murres and Kittiwakes. If visibility is good, we should find Thiek-billed Murres. Overnight in St. John's.
- Day 13** Travel to Argentia and embark on the 18 hour ferry ride from Argentia to North Sydney. We shall have plenty of opportunity to look for Shearwaters, Fulmars, Storm-petrels and Jaegers. If conditions are good, we should see a wide variety of sca life. Overnight in North Sydney.
- Day 14-16** Three leisurely travel days for our return home. Our stops will include several primarily for birding.
 Night 14 in Sackville N.B.
 Night 15 will be in Rivière du Loup, P.Q.
 Arrival in Ottawa approximately 7:30 p.m. on day 16.

There are a few seats left. TO REGISTER, CALL THE CLUB NUMBER (722-3050 after 10:00 a.m.). Acceptance is on a "first come — first serve" basis. □

DEADLINE: *Material intended for the April-June 1994 issue must be in the editor's hands by February 1, 1994. Mail your manuscripts to:*

Fenja Brodo
 Editor, *Trail & Landscape*
 28 Benson Street
 Nepean, Ontario, K2E 5J5
 H: (613)723-2054; Fax: (613) 990-6451.

ISSN 0041-0748

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

published by

THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB

Second Class Mail - Registration Number 2777

Postage paid in cash at Ottawa

Change of Address Notices and Undeliverable Copies:

Box 35069, Westgate P.O.,

Ottawa, Ont. K1Z 1A2

Return postage guaranteed

Printed by
LOMOR PRINTERS LTD.